



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: 11/20/14

Complaint Number: 14-150987

Type of Incident: Fraud Scam involving IRS and Green Dot Prepaid Credit Cards

Reporting Officer: Det. Jason Russo

Supervisor Approval: Lt. Al Roetman

On 11/17/14 and 11/19/14 Kent County area residents were contacted on their land lines and cell phones by an individual claiming to be an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agent calling about unpaid taxes.

The caller advised the victim that they have already contacted local law enforcement and if they don't not pay their taxes owed to the IRS, the local sheriff will issue arrest warrants and they will be arrested.

The caller then instructs the victim to obtain a Green Dot or Money Pak prepaid card from a local store (example stores: CVS, Walmart, Rite Aid) for a specific amount.

The victim is then told to call the caller back or is kept on the line while the cards are purchased.

The victim then is requested to provide the caller with the numbers on the back of the prepaid card. Once the numbers are given, the money is then taken by the suspect(s) and the fraud is completed.

This scam has been taking place in the Kent County area. Keep in mind that the IRS or the Kent County Sheriff Department does not conduct business in this manner nor do they contact citizens over the phone regarding tax issues.

Please inform your family members to be aware of this type of fraud. If you receive a similar call, contact your local Law Enforcement Agency.

Media Contact: Undersheriff Jon Hess 616-632-6236